

REMARKSSummary of Office Action

Claims 37-115 were pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner rejected claims 63, 64, 67-74, 83-89, 92-99 and 113-115 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Great Britain 2 284 764 in view of Shepherd et al. U.S. Patent 3,566,874.* Claims 65, 66, 90, 91, 100 and 101 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Great Britain '764 and Shepherd, further in view of Gordon et al. U.S. Patent 3,967,728.

Claims 37-62 were allowed. Each of claims 75-82 and 102-112 was objected to as being dependent from a rejected based claim, but allowable subject matter was indicated.

Applicants' Reply

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 37-62 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 75-82 and 102-112.

Applicants have amended claims 63, 76, 87, 88, 95, 96, 99, 100, 103, 113 and 114, and have cancelled claims 68, 69, 71-75, 86, 93, 94, 97, 98 and 102, in order to more particularly define the invention. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, applicants have incorporated the limitations of allowable claim 75 (including the limitations of intervening claims 71-74) into independent claim 63, and has amended dependent claim 76 to adjust its dependency. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 63, as well as all of its remaining dependent claims, as amended, including claims not previously indicated as allowable, are patentable.

* The Examiner did not identify claims 113-115 when introducing this rejection on page 2 of the Office Action, but included them in the discussion at the bottom of page 3 and the top of page 4.

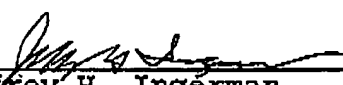
Similarly, applicants have incorporated the limitations of allowable claim 102 (including the limitations of intervening claim 98) into independent claim 87, and has amended dependent claims 88, 95, 96, 99, 100, 103, 113 and 114 to adjust their dependencies and to conform to the amendments of claim 87 (including incorporating the limitations of dependent claim 97 into dependent claim 88). Applicants respectfully submit that claim 87, as well as all of its remaining dependent claims, as amended, including claims not previously indicated as allowable, are patentable.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the rejected claims, including the unamended form of those of the rejected dependent claims that have been amended herein, in one or more continuing applications.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application as amended, including claims 37-67, 70, 76-85, 87-92, 95, 96, 99-101 and 103-115, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey H. Ingberman
Reg. No. 31,069
Attorney for Applicants
FISH & NEAVE IP GROUP
ROPES & GRAY LLP
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
Tel.: (212) 596-9000